

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGIONAL WATER BOARD
DECEMBER 11, 2018**

ITEM 8

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY BASIN TO ESTABLISH A TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL) FOR SEDIMENT IN THE PESCADERO-BUTANO WATERSHED AND AN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN TO ACHIEVE THE TMDL AND RELATED HABITAT ENHANCEMENT GOALS.

DISCUSSION

The San Francisco Bay Water Board adopted a Basin Plan amendment on June 13, 2018, with [Resolution No. R2-2018-0027](#). Pescadero and Butano creeks are listed pursuant to federal Clean Water Act section 303(d) as impaired due to excess erosion and sedimentation. In both creeks, the narrative water quality objectives for sediment and settleable material are not being met, and the cold freshwater habitat, wildlife habitat, fish spawning and migration, contact and non-contact recreation, and preservation of rare and endangered species beneficial uses are impaired. In addition, narrative water quality objectives for population and community ecology are not being met due to channel incision, which, in addition to being a significant sediment source, simplifies the physical habitat structure of the channel, and disconnects it from its floodplain. Controllable anthropogenic sources of sediment being discharged into Pescadero and Butano creeks include road-related erosion, channel incision, gully erosion, landslide erosion, and surface erosion.

The Basin Plan amendment establishes:

1. A sediment TMDL equal to 125 percent of natural background sediment load (150,000 tons/year);
2. Numeric targets for sediment, expressed as residual pool volume and substrate composition;
3. Numeric targets for habitat condition, expressed as the amount of large woody debris in channels; and
4. An implementation plan to achieve the TMDL and related habitat enhancement goals. Implementation of the TMDL will result in attainment of numeric targets for sediment and enhanced stream-riparian habitat complexity and connectivity, which are necessary to conserve listed populations of coho salmon and steelhead.

The TMDL and the implementation plan address the excess sediment supply to channels, as well as simplification, loss, and/or reduction in the quality and quantity of instream habitat for listed populations of salmonids in the Pescadero-Butano watershed. To attain water quality objectives and restore properly functioning channels and habitat, the implementation plan calls for actions to address sources of sediment in the watershed. Such actions include identifying and prioritizing treatment of erosion-prone areas and implementing best management practices to reduce erosion and sediment discharge along roads, from pastures, and in riparian areas. Implementing parties include parks and open space districts, county roads, and agricultural,

grazing, and timberland owners. The implementation plan also includes recommended habitat enhancement actions to improve aquatic habitat for endangered species. The TMDL aims to increase channel complexity, increase channel connections to floodplains, and increase sediment storage. Achievement of these goals would help improve resiliency in the watershed to climate change.

The scientific basis for the TMDL was subject to an independent, external peer review pursuant to the requirements of California Health and Safety Code section 57004. The scientific peer reviewers provided support for the proposed objectives and acknowledged the scientific methods and analyses used to develop the TMDL.

The Water Board publicly noticed, and distributed for public review and comment, the proposed Basin Plan amendment, supporting draft Staff Report, and Environmental Checklist, in accordance with applicable State and federal laws and regulations. The Water Board considered the Environmental Checklist, Staff Report, and supporting documentation, and concluded that the Basin Plan amendment will not have a significant impact on the environment.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board approve an amendment to the San Francisco Bay Water Board's Basin Plan to establish a TMDL for sediment in the Pescadero-Butano watershed and an implementation plan to achieve the TMDL and related habitat enhancement goals?

FISCAL IMPACT

San Francisco Bay Water Board staff work associated with or resulting from this action will be addressed with existing and future budgeted resources.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

Adoption of this resolution will approve the amendment of the San Francisco Bay Basin Plan.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the State Water Board:

1. Approve the amendment to the Basin Plan adopted under San Francisco Bay Water Board Resolution No. R2-2018-0027.
2. Authorize the Executive Director or designee to submit the amendment as approved and the administrative record for this action to the Office of Administrative Law for approval and the amendment to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goal 1 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012 to implement strategies to fully support the beneficial uses for all 2006-listed water bodies. In particular, this item will assist in fulfilling Action 1 to prepare, adopt, and take steps to carry out Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), designed to meet water quality standards, for all impaired water bodies by 2030.